Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0046] at pages 16-18 of the specification as follows:

Programmable difference thresholds can also be used to create difference bands where different values of f can be selected for use. For instance, if two thresholds (th1 and th2) are employed, then three bands are created where three different f values (f1, f2 and f3) can be used. A first band would be for all difference values (P1-P2) that fall between 0 and th1. If the difference falls within this range, f1 is used for the filtered value calculation in equation (1). A second band is between th1 and th2, where f2 would be used, and a third band that uses f3 comprises the range of th2 to some maximum value. All values of th1, th2, f1, f2, f3, etc. are programmable, for example, by the user on a picture boundary. With two sets of registers to hold these values at the user interface, one set could be used to process the current input picture while the user could prepare and change the second set, which could be automatically used in the following input picture if desired.

Example:

th1=7

th2=15

f1=.75

f2=.50

f3=.25

If P1=20 and P2=16:

P1-P2=4, f=f1=.75 since 4<th1

Therefore, the new pixel value = .75(20)+.25(16)=15+4=19.

If P1=20 and P2=[[12]] 16:

P1-P2=8, f=f2=.50 since th1<8<th2

Therefore, the new pixel value = .50(20)+.50(16)=10+8=18.

If P1=20 and P2=4:

P1-P2=16, f=f3=.25 since 16>th2

Therefore, the new pixel value = .25(20)+.75(4)=5+3=8.